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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/507,091

06/13/2005

Franz Ehrenleitner

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EXAMINER

LAMB, BRENDA A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1792

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/17/2009

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/507,091	<b>Applicant(s)</b> EHRENLEITNER, FRANZ	
	<b>Examiner</b> Brenda A. Lamb	<b>Art Unit</b> 1792	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/13/2005</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

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The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "the at least one gas-filled bellows device" in claim 11 lacks proper antecedent basis and unclear how it relates to other structural elements of the system such as the counterbalancing device. The term "the articles" at line 3, line 5 and line 8 in claim 1 lacks proper antecedent basis and unclear how its relates to the vehicle bodies set forth in the preamble of claim 1. It is unclear how the "at least one article" held by the holding device set forth at line 10 of claim 1 relates to the vehicle bodies which are dipped coated as set forth in the preamble of claim 1. Claim 1 is confusing since it recites in the preamble a system for dip coating vehicle bodies yet the body is silent as to how the vehicle bodies are coated and the coating element for applying the coating material. Claim 1 is confusing since it is unclear how the "medium" at line 18-19 of claim 1 capable of temporarily storing the energy relates to "an elastically deformable medium" set forth at line 18 of claim 1. The term "the energy flow" in claim 7 lacks proper antecedent basis.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the damping apparatus associated with the spring must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over De-201 56 676 (Eisenmann Maschinenbau) in view of van Vlaardingen 5,098,049.

DE '676 teaches the design of a system for coating vehicle bodies which is comprised of the following: a) a plurality of treatment containers 2, in which the articles are acted upon in each case by a treatment liquid; b) at least one feed carriage, by means of which the articles are conveyed through the system and in the process introduced into and removed from the treatment containers and which in turn comprises:

- ba) running gear movable along the path of motion of the articles;
- bb) at least one swivel arm 50,51 coupled to the running gear; and
- bc) a holding device coupled to the swivel arm for the vehicle;
- bd) mutually independently actuatable drives for the translational movement, the swivelling of the at least one swivel arm and of the holding device; and
- be) a counterbalancing device 88.

DE '676 fails to teach the counterbalancing device is comprises of an energy storage mechanism comprising an elastically deformable medium. However, van Vlaardingen teaches a counterbalancing device for tilting a supporting arm and the counterbalancing device is comprised of an energy storage mechanism comprising an elastically deformable medium and the medium is capable of temporarily storing the energy released during movement of the article and retrieving the stored energy to assist the upward movement of the article. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the DE '676 system by substituting its counterbalancing device for another counterbalancing device such as taught by van Vlaardingen for the obvious advantage of providing a counterbalancing device which also has means to control tilting of the supporting arm- increased reliability and safety by providing an additional means for

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controlling the tilting or movement of the swivel/support arm. With respect to claim 2-5 and 11, van Vlaardingen teaches the energy-storage device is comprised of a gas or air filled bellows device and teaches the internal pressure of the bellows device is capable of being adjusted via means which include safety valve 42. Further, the recitation that energy-storage device is further comprised of a spring 55 does not define applicant's invention over van Vlaardingen in that the bellows itself acts like a pneumatic spring-like device which expands and contracts dependent on fluid pressure therein and in any event van Vlaardingen teaches the bellows assembly includes a spring 55.

Claims 6-10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brenda A. Lamb whose telephone number is (571) 272-1231. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton, can be reached on (571) 272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brenda A Lamb  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1792

/Brenda A Lamb/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792